

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 OSLO 02990 250702Z  
ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 FAA-00 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 ACDA-07 TRSE-00 COME-00 DOTE-00 EB-07  
FMC-01 DLOS-09 OES-07 /089 W  
-----085113 250710Z /21

R 241444Z JUN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY OSLO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3981  
INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK  
COMMANDANT CG WASHDC  
CNO WASHDC  
SECDEF WASHDC  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 2990

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, SU, NO, ETEL, MARR  
SUBJECT: SOVIET NEWS AGENCY WEIGHS IN ON LORAN C/OMEGA ISSUE

REF: OSLO 2870

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED: THE NORWEGIAN PRESS HAS REPORTED THAT THE SOVIET NEWS AGENCY, TASS, HAS COMMENTED ON THE RECENT CONTROVERSY IN OSLO OVER LORAN C AND OMEGA RADIO NAVIGATIONAL SYSTEMS ON JUNE 23. SOVIET REPORT, ACCORDING TO NORWEGIAN PAPERS SAYS "THAT NORWAY IS ABOUT TO BE TRANSFORMED INTO A COMMUNICATIONS AND CONTROL CENTER FOR NATO IN NORTHERN EUROPE, AMONG OTHER THINGS FOR NUCLEAR WEAPONS."

2. REPORTING ON THE TASS ACCOUNT JUNE 24, THE NORWEGIAN LABOR PARTY DAILY "ARBEIDERBLADET" STATED: "IN AN ARTICLE IN THE OFFICIAL NEWS AGENCY TASS  
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PAGE 02 OSLO 02990 250702Z

COMMENTATOR BORIS BOTSJKOV CLAIMS THAT THE INSTALLMENT OF THE RADIO NAVIGATION STATIONS LORAN C AND OMEGA ALONG THE NORWEGIAN COAST IS A CLEAR VIOLATION OF THE NORWEGIAN NUCLEAR POLICY.

"- NORWAY HAS BEEN THE OBJECT OF INCREASING ATTENTION FROM THE NATO AND PENTAGON LEADERSHIP. THE

ATTEMPTS BY NATO AND THE USA TO MAKE NORWAY A BULWARK FOR THEIR AGGRESSIVE INTENTIONS IN THE NORTH ARE ALSO EVIDENT FROM THE PLANS TO LET AMERICAN NUCLEAR SUBMARINES WITH NUCLEAR WEAPONS ABOARD MAKE USE OF THE LORAN C AND OMEGA STATIONS ALONG THE NORWEGIAN COAST, THE ARTICLE SAYS.

"- IT IS COMMON KNOWLEDGE THAT THESE STATIONS ARE NOTHING BUT A LINK IN A WIDELY BRANCHED AMERICAN RADIO NAVIGATION SYSTEM. THE NATO STRATEGISTS UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF THE PENTAGON ARE THIS WAY TRYING TO FORCE UPON NORWAY, WHICH AT ONE TIME WAS RELUCTANT TO OPEN ITS TERRITORY FOR NUCLEAR WEAPONS, THE DANGEROUS TASK OF BECOMING A COMMUNICATION AND CONTROL CENTER FOR NATO IN NORTHERN EUROPE, EVEN AS REGARDS NUCLEAR WEAPONS, BOTSJKOV WRITES.

"- NO AMOUNT OF SECRETIVENESS CAN HIDE THE FACT THAT THE NATO LEADERSHIP AND PENTAGON WILL EXPLOIT NORWAY IN ORDER TO PURSUE THEIR MILITARY AIMS TO INCREASE THE MILITARY TENSION IN DIRECT CONFLICT WITH THE PROCESS OF DETENTE AND COOPERATION AMONG THE NATIONS, HE WRITES." END UNCLASSIFIED.

3. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL. COMMENT: THE SOVIETS HAVE WASTED NO TIME IN SEEKING TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE LEFTIST CRITICISM  
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PAGE 03 OSLO 02990 250702Z

OF THE NAVIGATION STATION ISSUE. BY INDICATING THAT NORWAY WAS AT ONE TIME RELUCTANT TO OPEN ITSELF TO NUCLEAR WEAPONS, THE ARTICLE CLEARLY MEANS TO GIVE THE VIEW THAT NORWAY'S NUCLEAR POLICY IS NO LONGER FIRM. IT ALSO ADDS A NEW WRINKLE BY LINKING THE STATIONS TO DETENTE AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION.

4. THE GON CANNOT HELP BUT BE DISMAYED BY THIS QUICK SOVIET INVOLVEMENT IN THE LORAN C/OMEGA QUESTION, ESPECIALLY IN LIGHT OF THE SERIOUS PROBLEMS ALREADY EXISTING IN THEIR RELATIONS WITH THE USSR. IT WILL SURELY REINFORCE THE NORWEGIANS' CAUTIOUS APPROACH TO ISSUES RELATED TO THE TWO SYSTEMS.

5. WE EXPECT THAT THE GON AND PUBLIC REACTION TO THE SOVIET TACTIC WILL BE LARGELY NEGATIVE SINCE THE ARTICLE SETS THE SOVIET PRESS UP AS THE INTERPRETOR OF NORWAY'S NATIONAL POLICY. LEFT PARTY LEADER BERGE FURRE MAY ALSO SEE THIS SOVIET SUPPORT FOR HIS VIEWS ON LORAN C AS A MIXED BLESSING, SINCE IT WILL NOW BE EASIER TO DISCREDIT FURRE AS A SECURITY RISK. NEVERTHELESS WE EXPECT THAT FURRE WILL CONTINUE TO PURSUE THE MATTER FOR POTENTIAL ELECTION BENEFITS. END CONFIDENTIAL.

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## Message Attributes

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